

Application No. 10/607,084
Response dated August 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 3-17, 19-23 are pending in this application, of which claims 2-17 have been amended, and claims 19-23 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 18 have been cancelled.

The basis of new claims 19 to 21 is found at page 26, lines 1-3, and Figs. 1, 2, 3(b), 5-22, and 39-54. The basis of new claim 22 and 23 is found at original claim 2.

(1) Claims 8, 9 and 13 were objected to.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, the pawls as recited in canceled claim 2 are, for example, shown as 37-40, and the protrusions as recited in claim 8 are, for example, shown as 45 and 46, as shown in Fig 6 (a) and page 15, lines 17-20, so there are no double recitations.

Claim 13 has been canceled.

Reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claims 1, 2 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Leistner (US 6,183,181).

Claims 1 and 2 have been rewritten as claims 19, 22 and 23. Since newly added claim 19 has incorporated the limitations of original claim 18, the rejection of claim 1, which is now claim 19, is not supported by Leistner. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(3) Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leistner (US 6,183,181) in view of Vermillion (US 5,609,351).

Claim 18 has been cancelled, and the limitations of claim 18 have been incorporated in newly added claim 19. Claim 19 has also incorporated the new limitation that the bottom-sealing portion formed integrally with the flange portion has an outside surface having a convex portion. Also, newly added claim 20, which depends on claim 19, recites that the outside surface of the bottom-sealing portion has a circular pattern. Also, newly added claim 21, which depends on claim 19, recites that the outside surface of the bottom-sealing portion has a concentric circular pattern.

Leistner does not teach the bottom-sealing portion integrally formed with the flange portion. Vermillion does not disclose the convex portion, circular pattern, or concentric circular pattern of the present invention, on the outside surface of the bottom-sealing portion integrally formed with the flange portion. The T-nut of the present invention is prepared from a metal plate by pressing.

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The convex portion or the pattern of claims 19-21 is necessarily made by pressing the metal plate to **integrally** form the bottom-sealing portion. Thus, even if combining the cited references, the invention of claims 19-21 cannot be obtained. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(4) Claims 3-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leistner (US 6,183,181).

Neither of the cited references discloses the features of claims 3-16, which depend on newly added claim 19. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(5) In view of the above, claims 3-17 and 19-23, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

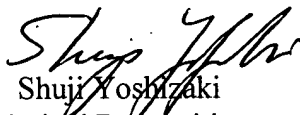
In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due

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with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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